

Work Session

Agenda Item #	5
Meeting Date	March 5, 2007
Prepared By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager
Approved By	

Discussion Item	Renovation of Auditorium
Background	<p>The initial concept for the Takoma Park Community Center envisioned use of the Auditorium by performing arts and theatre groups. The specifications issued by the City in 2003 included several bid alternatives for renovating the Auditorium to accommodate these uses. Due to financial considerations, these alternatives were not accepted.</p> <p>During the past year, a number of meetings have been held to discuss various options for renovating the Auditorium for use by performing arts and theatre groups while maintaining the ability to use the space for holding and televising public meetings. Meeting participants included Councilmember Bruce Williams, Recreation Committee Chair Howard Kohn, Recreation Director Debra Haiduven, Communications Director Lonni Moffet, and other interested persons.</p> <p>The renovation of the Auditorium to accommodate the various proposed uses will entail careful review and study of lighting, sound and audio-visual equipment, seating, heating and cooling systems, and accessibility. On February 5, 2007, Mr. Kohn addressed the City Council, advocating for the hiring of a consultant/architect to assist the City in developing design alternatives and associated cost estimates.</p> <p>On February 27, 2007, the Takoma Park Art and Humanities Commission approved Resolution 2007-01, supporting the investigation and development of a performing arts space at the Takoma Park Community Center. The resolution encourages the City Council to conduct a feasibility study regarding the renovation of the Auditorium for use as a performing arts venue and a meeting space and to provide funding in the FY08 budget to implement the recommendations of the feasibility study.</p>
Policy	The City Council determines how City funds are expended and the services to be provided by the City government.
Fiscal Impact	To be determined based on the direction of the City Council
Attachments	Resolution 2007-01 of the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission
Recommendation	<p>Staff recommends that the City Council discuss the proposed retention of a consultant/architect to assist the City in developing design alternatives and associated cost estimates and to provide direction to staff on how to proceed.</p> <p>Should the Council wish to move forward with renovation of the Auditorium, staff supports the retention of a consultant/architect.</p>
Special Consideration	The current CIP anticipates that the renovation of the Auditorium would take place in FY09, at a cost of \$100,000. This figure was a rough estimate developed by various City staff members. The CIP is reviewed annually as part of the City's budget process; the timing of projects ultimately depends on funding availability.